

50-58 CROWN STREET (COMMERCIAL BUILDING)
New Haven
New Haven County
Connecticut

HABS No. CT-418

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
MID-ATLANTIC REGION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

50-58 CROWN STREET (COMMERCIAL BUILDING)

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Location: 50-58 Crown Street, New Haven,
New Haven County, Connecticut.

USGS New Haven, Connecticut Quadrangle
Universal Transverse Mercator
18.673680.4574350

Significance: This building is really three attached masonry rowhouses, built in the mid 19th-century, unified in 1912 with a new masonry facade. The building is significant because it is part of a rare grouping of late 19th and early 20th century of commercial buildings still extant in downtown.

Description: This masonry building is a three-story commercial block situated at the corner of Orange and Crown Streets. The facade has multiple window bays in one, two, and three part groupings on the Crown and Orange Street elevations. The roof-line has a simple brick parapet enriched with diamond and square shaped glazed panels. At the street level, a pressed tin storefront is separated by fluted pilasters with egg-and-dart capitals. (A portion of the Orange Street storefront has been bricked over and the cornice removed.) Above the street level, the bays on the second floor are comprised of three-part windows under a wooden cornice. The third floor has single and paired windows with no surround and a stone lintel. The building is chamfered at the street corner with a storefront entrance.

Behind the main block on the Orange Street side is a two-story masonry addition with a wooden cornice. The storefront and upper level window treatment echo the main block on the Orange Street elevation.

History: In 1907, Patrick J. Cronan of P. J. Cronan Paper Box Company purchased 50-52 and 54 Crown Street from Edward F. & Frederick C. Bishop, a New Haven real estate firm (city deeds: v.605, p.229,230). Located on the site were three 19th century attached rowhouses. As Cronan never resided at 50-54 Crown, it is assumed that he acquired the property as a speculative investment.

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In 1912, Abdul D. Steinbach of A. D. Steinbach Press purchased 50-54 Crown Street (city deeds: v.686, p.503), and on the same day received a \$15,000 mortgage on the property (city deeds: v.689, p.5). One month later Steinbach submitted city building permit #6348 for "brick addition and remodel" by New Haven architect C. E. Joy for \$7,000. Although not definitive, this permit suggests Steinbach was responsible for the remodeling of the building. The 1912 city directory lists A. D. Steinbach Press at 52 Crown Street in the Steinbach Building.

According to building permit #9298, Steinbach put another addition on the building in 1915 by the prolific New Haven architectural firm Brown & Von Beren for \$6,000. The rear addition was built in 1934 for Steinbach according to permit #14843. Steinbach moved his business out of the Steinbach Building in 1925-26 and 50-58 Crown Street became the Crown Building in 1964. The building has seen various tenants throughout the years. Interior renovations in the late 1970s have left the building structurally unsound. It has been vacant since this time.

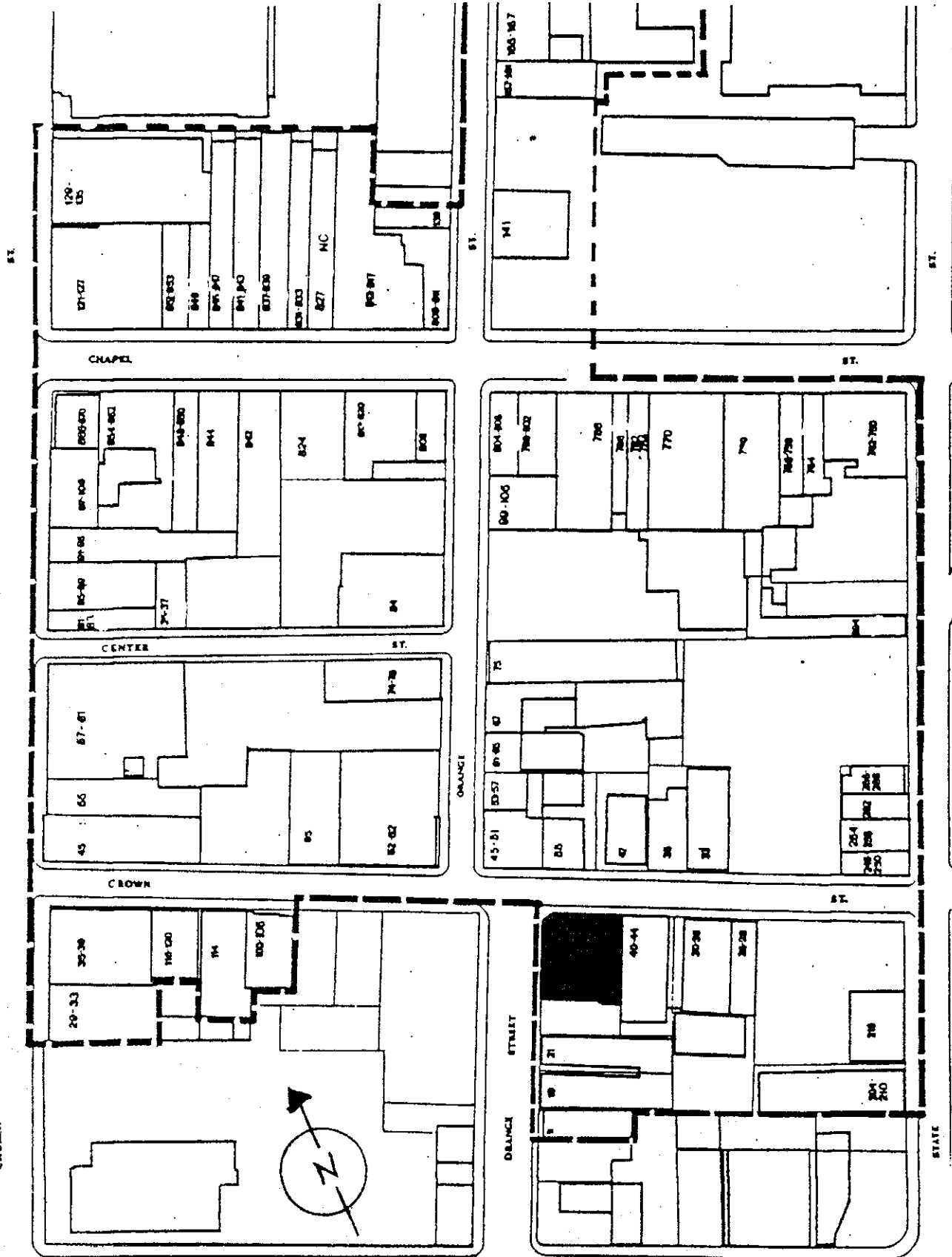
Sources:

9th Square National Register Historic District
Nomination, 1984
New Haven City Building Department permits
New Haven City Directories
New Haven Land Records deeds
New Haven Colony Historical Society:
DANA Collection: v.17, p.121; v.38, p.6
1880, 1888, 1901-23, 1911 maps

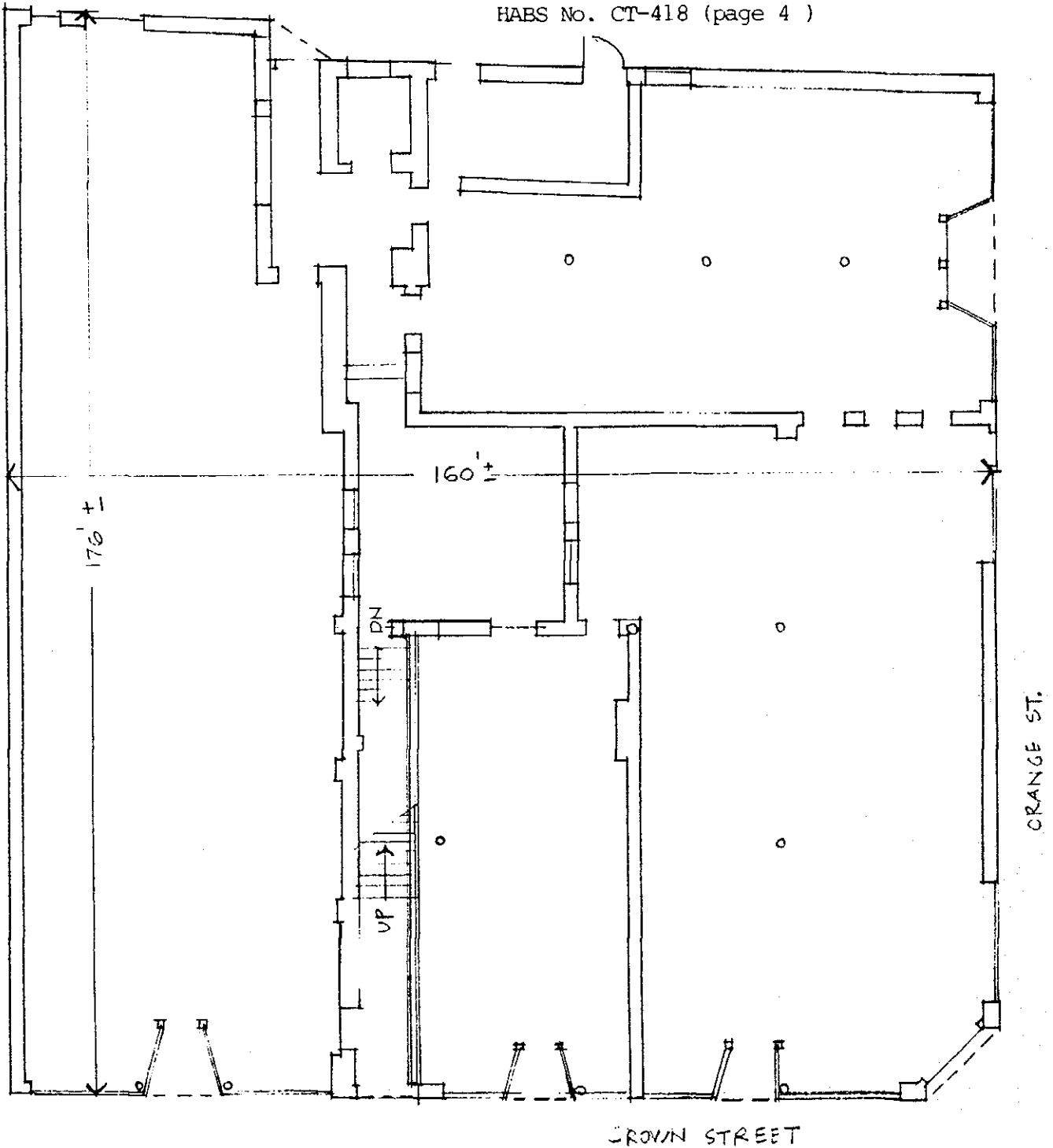
Historian:

Kathleen A. Maher and Preston Maynard
New Haven Preservation Trust
May 20, 1990

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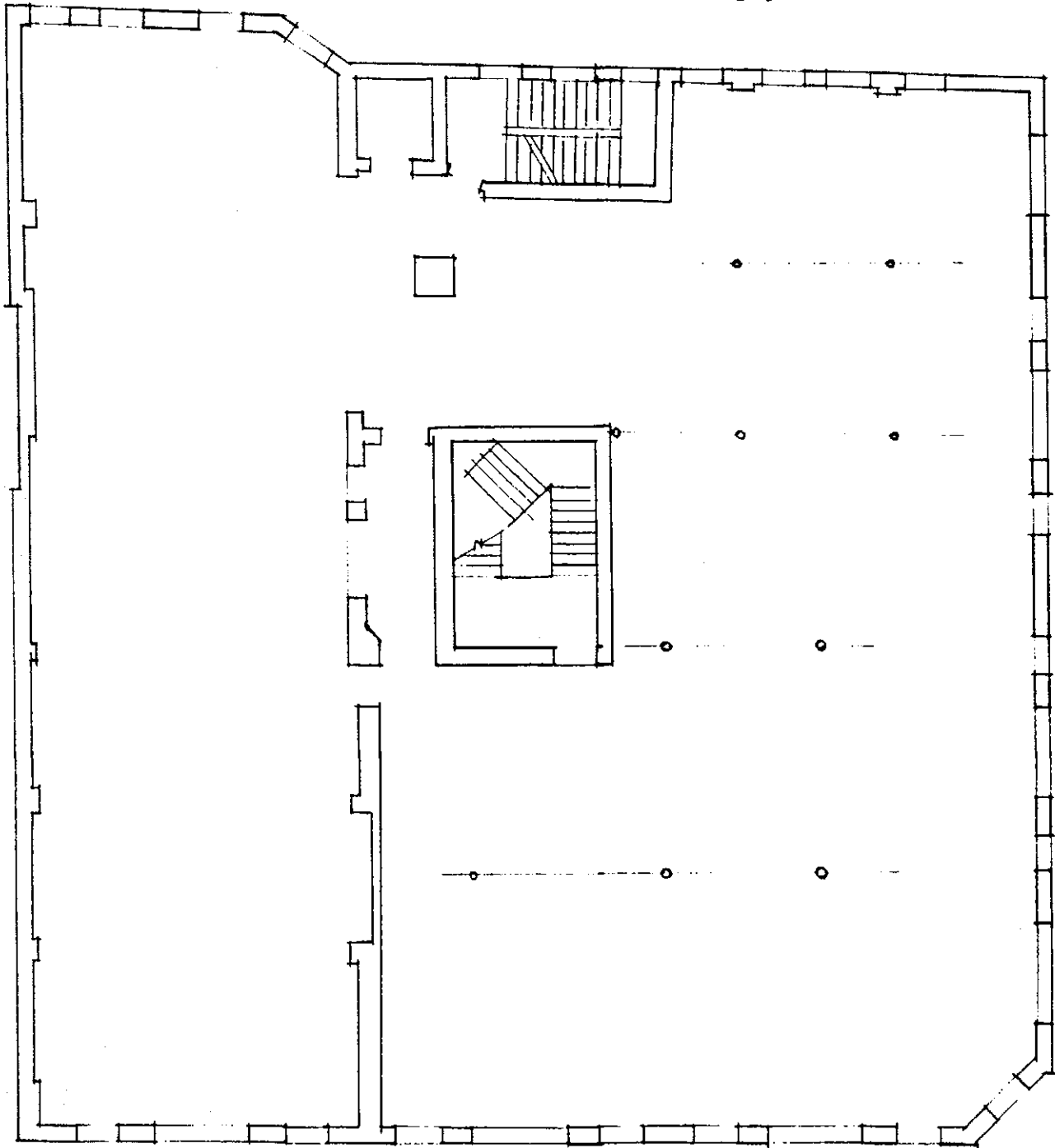


FIRST FLOOR PLAN

50-58 CROWN STREET NEW HAVEN CT.



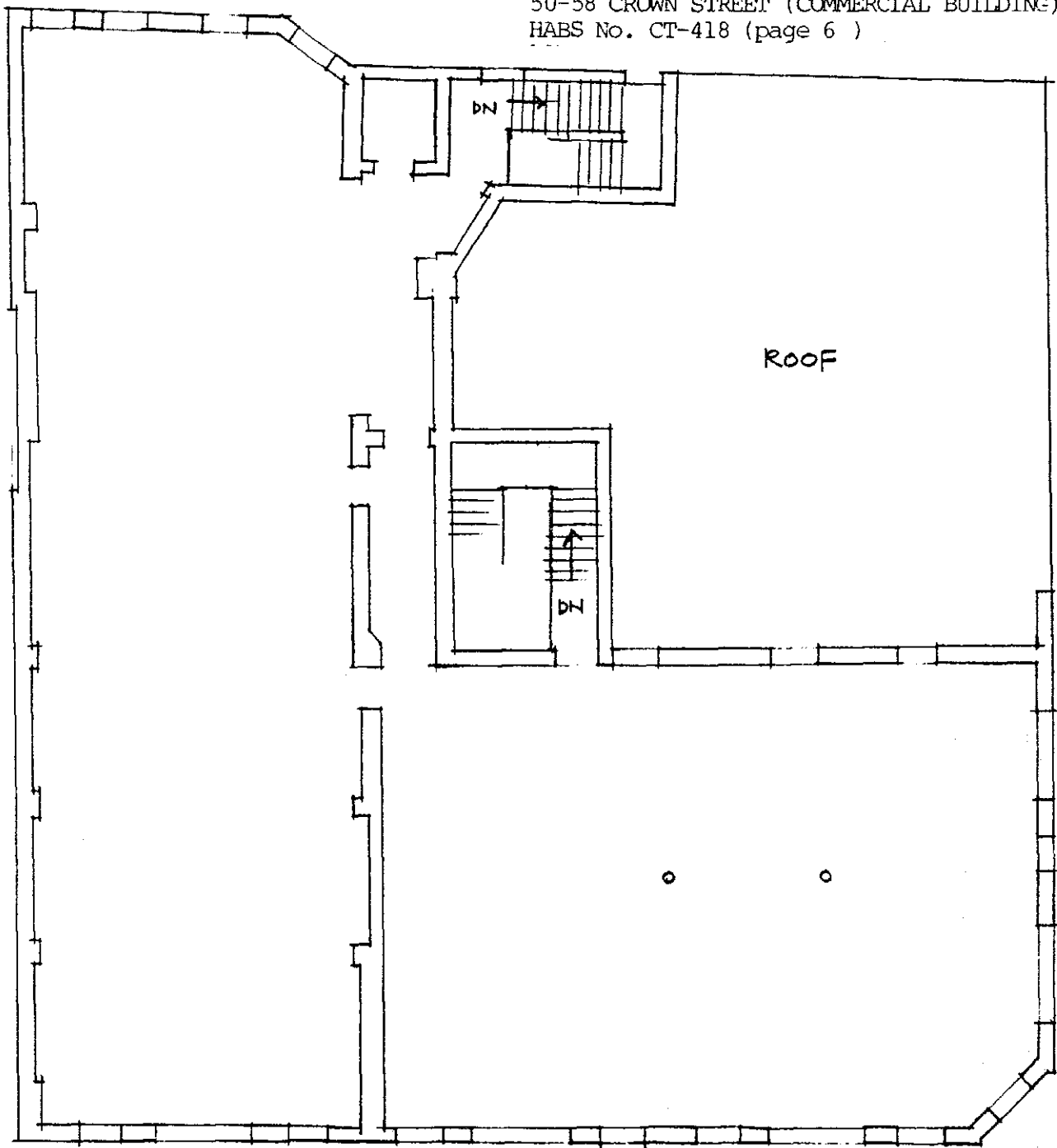
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SECOND FLOOR PLAN

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THIRD FLOOR PLAN

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